

assembly 12 or with edge surfaces of the column assembly. Lead-in alignment surfaces 76, 78 and 80 on the cantilever snap fasteners 72 and 74 guide the snap fasteners into the passages in the steering column assembly 12. Vertical pressure downward on the upper shroud 34 springs the cantilever snap fasteners 72 and 74 relative to each other until the retainer ledges 82 snap into place and secure the upper shroud 34 to the steering column assembly 12. The stabilizer posts 84 and 86 and the guide post 70 limit downward movement of the upper shroud 34. The retainer ledges 82 on the cantilever snap fasteners 72 and 74 includes inclined cam surfaces 83 that urge the guide post 70 and the stabilizer posts 84 and 86 toward engagement with the steering column assembly, fix the position of the upper shroud 34 and limit movement between the upper shroud and the steering column assembly 12.

Rewrite claims 1 and 8 as follows:

1(amended). A snap-on steering column shroud assembly comprising:

an upper shroud of molded one-piece construction including a first upper parting edge, a second upper parting edge, an upper shroud upper end steering shaft passage portion, and a plurality of upper shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners;

a lower shroud of molded one-piece construction including a first lower parting edge, a second lower parting edge, a lower shroud upper end steering shaft passage portion, and a plurality of lower shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners;

a first side elongated guide post and a first guide post receiver, and a second side elongated guide post and a second guide post receiver that cooperate to align the lower shroud with the upper shroud;

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a plurality of first parting edge snap receivers and a plurality of first parting edge snap connectors adjacent to the first upper parting edge and the first lower parting edge, that cooperate with each other to hold the first upper parting edge and the first lower parting edge in alignment with each other; and

a plurality of second parting edge snap receivers and a plurality of second parting edge snap connectors adjacent to the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge that cooperate with each other and hold the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge in alignment with each other.

8(amended). A snap-on steering column shroud assembly comprising:

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an upper shroud of molded one-piece construction including a first upper parting edge, a second upper parting edge, an upper shroud upper end steering shaft passage portion, a plurality of upper shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners, and a plurality of upper shroud deflection limiting posts;

a lower shroud of molded one-piece construction including a first lower parting edge, a second lower parting edge, a lower shroud upper end steering shaft passage portion, a plurality of lower shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners, and a plurality of lower shroud deflection limiting posts;

a first side elongated guide post and a first side guide post receiver, and a second side elongated guide post and a second side guide post receiver that cooperate to align the lower shroud with the upper shroud;

a plurality of first parting edge snap receivers and a plurality of first parting edge snap connectors adjacent to the first upper parting edge and the first lower parting edge, that cooperate with each other to hold the first upper parting edge and the first lower parting edge in alignment with each other; and

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a plurality of second parting edge snap receivers and a plurality of second parting edge snap connectors adjacent to the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge that cooperate with each other and hold the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge in alignment with each other.

[Add claims 16-20 as follows:

1416.

A snap-on steering column shroud assembly comprising:

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an upper shroud of molded one-piece construction including a first upper parting edge, a second upper parting edge, an upper shroud upper end steering shaft passage portion, and a plurality of upper shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners;

a lower shroud of molded one-piece construction including a first lower parting edge, a second lower parting edge, a lower shroud upper end steering shaft passage portion, and a plurality of lower shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners;

a plurality of first parting edge snap receivers and a plurality of first parting edge snap connectors adjacent to the first upper parting edge and the first lower parting edge, that cooperate with each other to hold the first upper parting edge and the first lower parting edge in alignment with each other; and

a plurality of second parting edge snap receivers and a plurality of second parting edge snap connectors adjacent to the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge that cooperate with each other and hold the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge in alignment with each other.

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A snap-on steering column shroud assembly, as set forth in claim *14* ~~16~~, wherein

the upper shroud includes at least one integral deflection limiting post, and the lower shroud

includes at least one integral deflection limiting post.

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~~18.~~¹⁶ A snap-on steering column shroud assembly, as set forth in claim ~~16~~¹⁴, wherein each of the plurality of upper shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilevered snap fasteners has an upper shroud retainer ledge with an upper shroud cam surface for urging upper shroud toward the lower shroud; and each of the plurality of lower shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilevered snap fasteners has a lower shroud retainer ledge with a lower shroud cam surface for urging the lower shroud toward the upper shroud.

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~~18.~~¹⁷ A snap-on steering column shroud assembly, as set forth in claim ~~16~~¹⁴, wherein each of the plurality of first parting edge snap receivers include a first snap holder wedge surface that urges the first upper parting edge and the first lower parting edge toward each other; and

wherein each of the plurality of second parting edge snap receivers includes a second snap holder wedge surface that urges the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge toward each other.

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~~20.~~ A snap-on steering column shroud assembly comprising:
an upper shroud of molded one-piece construction including a first upper parting edge, a second upper parting edge, and upper shroud upper end steering shaft passage portion, a plurality of upper shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners, and a plurality of upper shroud deflection limiting posts;

a lower shroud of molded one-piece construction including a first lower parting edge, a second lower parting edge, a lower shroud upper end steering shaft passage portion, a plurality of lower shroud steering column assembly engaging cantilever snap fasteners, and a plurality of lower shroud deflection limiting posts;

a plurality of first parting edge snap receivers and a plurality of first parting

edge snap connectors adjacent to the first upper parting edge and the first lower parting edge, that cooperate with each other to hold the first upper parting edge and the first lower parting edge in alignment with each other; and

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a plurality of second parting edge snap receivers and a plurality of second parting edge snap connectors adjacent to the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge that cooperate with each other and hold the second upper parting edge and the second lower parting edge in alignment with each other.
